

Bylaw Review Committee 01/08/2020 Minutes

Attendees:

David Seligman (DS)

Mary McGurn (MM)

Jenn Frederick (JF)

Eileen Vining (EV)

Richard Allen - Guest (RA)

Marj Wexler - Guest (MW)

Absent: Ellen Maggio (EM)

Called to order by Chair David Seligman at 5:32 p.m.

- Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Methodology

- We continue the discussion regarding methodology for reviewing Bylaws, especially in regard to having work complete in time for the Town Meeting.
- We discuss the importance of all changes being visible for discussion at our meetings.
- Motion passes: That we move through the first 6 sections of Egremont Bylaws assigning to member the review of each with for issues such as:
 1. Language
 2. Organization
 3. Redundancy
 4. Modernization
 5. Eliminate ambiguities
 6. Eliminate inconsistencies
 7. Whether they are enforceable
- The committee will also review the entirety of Bylaws with an eye for errors and inconsistencies.

Looking Ahead to Town Meeting

We may plan to have informational meetings for citizens ahead of our Town Meeting (perhaps a series). This would likely take place once the warrant articles are proposed (within 60 day time frame). DS will investigate the timing on this.

Committee may present the changes to the Bylaws in two parts to citizens:

1. No substantive changes (review for errors and inconsistencies) to all Bylaws
2. Substantive changes to sections 1- 6.

Review of Bylaw 4.3

- Motion to accept the word “residents” in lieu of “voters” passes. (In regard to description of who can serve on the Finance Committee)
- Motion to accept “other than ad hoc” passes. (In regard to what committees members of the Finance Committee can serve on.)
- Motion to accept “Within 30 days” passes. (In regard to time frame after Town Meeting for making appointments to Finance Committee.)
- Motion to accept moderator as chair of Appointment Committee for Finance Committee passes.
- Motion to remove “theretofore” passes. (Simplify language in regard to what expenditures Finance Committee to review.)
- Discussion about how to assess vacancies on Finance Committee on hold pending review of appropriate procedures.
- Section 2.1 will be incorporated into 4.3.2

Future Meeting Dates

- January 22
- February 5
- February 19
- Schedule additional meetings in between as needed

Assignments for review of Bylaws up to and including Bylaw 6

- Bylaw 1: MM
- Bylaw 3: EV
- Bylaw 4 (remaining sections): RA
- Bylaw 5: JF
- Bylaw 6: DS

Meeting adjourned at 6:42